

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10803 160046Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 /103 W
-----040308 160055Z /62

R 131628Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FIRST LINE PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MOPS MASS LE EG IS US
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF LEBANON/ISRAEL/U.S.

SUMMARY. CAIRO PRESS CRITICIZES SLOW RATE OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND "SOFT" U.S. REACTION. AHRAH
URGES UNSC ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING DEADLINE AND
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PRESCRIBING SANCTIONS IF ISRAEL REFUSES. PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY MEMBER CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL FOR USE
OF CLUSTER BOMBS AND U.S. FOR SUPPLYING THEM. GUMHURIYYA
CRITICIZES U.S. FOR DELAY IN CONDEMNING ISRAEL AND
URGES U.S. TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR M.E. SOLUTION
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. DIRECT CRITICISMS OF U.S.
SUGGEST GOE PRESS POLICY, WHICH HAS VIRTUALLY PROHIBITED

ANTI-U.S. ATTACKS DURING PAST FOUR YEARS, MAY BE TESTED
AS EGYPTIAN FRUSTRATIONS OVER ISRAELI ACTIONS INCREASE.
END SUMMARY.

1. LEBANON. PRESS APRIL 13 HEADLINED CLASHES IN BEIRUT
AND CONTINUING WITHDRAWAL. FORMIN KAMEL CONFERRED WITH
FRENCH AMBASSADOR SENNARD AND ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
FERRETTI AS PART OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE FULL
WITHDRAWAL. NOTING "SLOW RATE" OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL,
AHAM EDITORIAL PICKED UP THEMES SUGGESTED YESTERDAY
THAT WITHDRAWAL NEITHER MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT NOR
INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF LEBANESE TERRITORY.
EDITORIAL SAYS ISRAEL MERELY WANTS RELIEVE INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE "WITHOUT LOSING EFFECTIVE MILITARY CONTROL OVER
SOUTH." THIS SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO UN BEING "MET SOFTLY
BY THE U.S." AHAM URGES UNSC ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING
DEADLINE FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL AND PRESCRIBING SANCTIONS
IF ISRAEL REFUSES.

2. ISRAEL. AHAM CONTRIBUTES FURTHER TO PORTRAIT OF
TROUBLED ISRAEL BY HIGHLIGHTING JOSEPH KRAFT ARTICLE
ON "POLITICAL CONFUSION" DUE TO BEGIN'S STUBBORN POLICY.
ARTICLE CARRIES KRAFT DESCRIPTION OF RIFTS IN BEGIN'S
COALITION DUE TO DISAGREEMENTS OVER ISSUES AND PER-
SONAL RIVALRIES BETWEEN BEGIN, DAYAN AND WEIZMAN.

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3. U.S. ROLE. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS, INDEPENDENT
DEPUTY FAROUK METWALLI (FROM SUEZ) CALLED ON PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY TO CONDEMN BOTH ISRAEL'S USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS
IN LEBANON AND U.S. FOR SUPPLYING THEM. IN COMMENT,
DEPUTY SPEAKER OTEIFI REPLIED THAT HE HAD OBTAINED COPY
OF 1952 AGREEMENT AND THAT U.S. "CONDEMNS ISRAEL USE
OF THESE BOMBS." SPEAKER MAREI COMMENTED THAT METWALLI
HAD RAISED IMPORTANT SUBJECT BECAUSE "WHOLE WORLD"
DENOUNCES USE OF THESE BOMBS. ISSUE REFERRED TO
COMMITTEE. CONTINUING CRITICISM OF U.S., HODA TAWFIQ'S
EDITORIAL IN GUMHURIYYA ENTITLED "HIDE AND SEEK: THE
AMERICAN-ISRAELI GAME IN THE MIDDLE EAST" SAID U.S.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ISRAELI VIOLATION IS "ITSELF A
POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT" BUT COMPLAINS CON-
DEMNATION CAME "MORE THAN ONE MONTH" AFTER ISRAELI
AGGRESSION IN LEBANON AND THAR 3 0853 ;89)-589, 7.S.
WILL DO NOTHING. SHE ACCUSES ISRAEL OF NOT WANTING TO
MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR PEACE AND MERELY PLAYING FOR TIME,
FEARING U.S. WILL PROPOSE "COMPLETE PROPOSALS FOR A
SOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE RIGHT TIME." EGYPT
PLAYING HER ROLE" INTELLIGENTLY" AND IS WAITING, BUT
SHE FORCING THE PARTIES CONCERNED; I.E., ISRAEL AND

U.S., TO BRING GAME TO DECISIVE CONCLUSION BEFORE IT IS
TOO LATE.

4. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF METWALLI'S CALL FOR
CONDEMNATION OF U.S. AND HODA TAWFIQ'S EDITORIAL, WHICH
PROBABLY INSPIRED BY MFA, ARE UNUSUALLY DIRECT CRITI-
CISMS OF U.S.. WHILE NOT SIGNIFICANT IN THEMSELVESN THEY -
SUGGEST THAT GOE PRESS POLICY, WHICH HAS VIRTUALLY
PROHIBITED ANTI-U.S. ATTACKS DURING PAST FOUR YEARS,
MAY BE TESTED AS EGYPTIAN FRUSTRATIONS OVER ISRAELI
ACTIONS INCREASE. EILTS

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